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Review of [From Shore to Shore](#)



"Cultural Collaboration Anglo Sufi Style"
 by [Kevin Quarmby](#) on 21/02/12

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The prospect of two cultures coming together through music is intriguing enough. That these two cultures should share a religious venue traditionally associated with London Anglicanism adds a frisson of surprise. Most surprising, however, is the fact that the manifestation of this cultural exchange is the harmonious interplay between an ensemble of theatrically-inspired early modern English musicians and their contemporary Sufi counterparts from Morocco. 'From Shore to Shore' does not present an evening of 'show and tell' music, but a fascinatingly spiritual and visceral expression of international collaboration. Artists share their creative and theatrical skills, their disparate musical styles entwining in a gloriously heady mix of English and North African melody and rhythm.

The Moroccan Sufi musicians of the [Ensemble Mogador Chant et Musique Soufie](#) perform alongside the equally remarkable ensemble, Passamezzo, who specialise in rarely played English 16th and 17th century music played on original instruments and in original costumes. The result, an evening of non-secular and secular music, accompanied by dance and interspersed with excerpts from Shakespeare. In the background, food from the Elizabethan and Jacobean period, lovingly prepared and presented, is dispensed to the audience. Aural and taste sensations compete and complete this evening of inter-faith celebration.

The event's director, Diana Lazenby, has brought together a surprising mix of musicians, actors and dancers. It is a revelation how well music from four hundred years ago melds with and complements the religiously inspired and inspirational music of modern Moroccan Islam. A truly memorable and uplifting evening that demonstrates the unifying force of music in a divided world.

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